



RESPONSIBLE REFORM FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS DEMOCRATS.SENATE.GOV/REFORM

Rhode Island: The Cost of Inaction

Rhode Island Families Suffer

Rhode Island insurance premiums skyrocket

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$5,403.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$11,934.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$26,359, a 121 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 41.4 percent of projected Rhode Island median family income.

More uninsured Rhode Islanders

- ✓ Every day, 50 Rhode Islanders lose their health insurance.
- ✓ During the last two years, 254,000 Rhode Islanders under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 27.8 percent of the under 65 population.
- ✓ In 2007, 101,869 Rhode Islanders under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 11 percent of the under 65 population.

Rhode Islanders pay higher premiums due to the uninsured

- ✓ Rhode Island families pay a “hidden tax” of \$100 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

Fewer choices due to consolidated market

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in Rhode Island have a combined market share of 95 percent.

Rhode Island Businesses Suffer

Fewer Rhode Islanders have health coverage at work

- ✓ In 2002, 69.1 percent of Rhode Islanders under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 64.7 percent of Rhode Islanders had coverage through their employer.

Rhode Island Economy Suffers

Health care spending climbs

- ✓ In 2004, Rhode Island spent \$6.7 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents \$6,193 per capita, and is 16.2 percent of the Gross State Product.

Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health

- ✓ This year, the Rhode Island economy will lose \$310 million - \$620 million due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.